

HINTS BY THE SOCIAL ARBITER

NOTE—The Arbitrator will be glad to answer any question on a social matter that may be submitted. Such questions should be addressed to The Arbitrator, care The Washington Herald.

The military correspondent of last week writes to thank the Arbitrator for what he terms "his illuminating letter," but begs him to give some definite instructions regarding table manners. "How do you eat asparagus?" he asks, "with your fingers or with a fork? How do you dispose of artichokes? Do you unfold your napkin once, or do you spread it to its full size on your lap? When should one begin eating at a social dinner, etc.?" To quote all of his questions would take up all the space allotted to this letter, which will aim to answer them.

Asparagus is invariably eaten by people of the world by taking up the white end in the fingers of the right hand and biting off the green end as far up as it is tender. To try and manage it with a fork is provincial. The leaves are stripped off of artichokes with the fingers and the succulent part eaten as one eats asparagus. Corn is also eaten from the cob, but it is a difficult process, and it is generally much more acceptable to serve it cut from the cob. Since we are on the subject of vegetables, lettuce should never be cut with a knife, which process destroys the flavor. It should be broken, or pulled, rather, in pieces with the fingers. As to the service of peas, tomatoes, and spinach—the hostess at a formal dinner this winter was electrified to hear one of her guests ask for a separate plate for the spinach, an absurd request, for the only other vegetable served with the file was carrots, and both vegetables should have been eaten from the same plate as the meat. It savors of provincialism for a guest to interrupt the service of a dinner by some idiosyncrasy of his own, and one should never make himself conspicuous by not conforming. That one's customs and habits are different is no recommendation. It is the person who most quickly and quietly accepts the manners and customs of those with whom he is placed who is the most desirable and sought-after guest.

As to the management of a napkin, that seems almost too absurd to discuss. There are no hard and fast rules for the treatment of this very necessary piece of table furniture. Use it in the way that will give you the most comfort. It is meant, of course, to protect your clothes from any possible crumbs that might fall and to wipe your hands and mouth on. When one is dining away from home the napkin should never be folded, but left loosely crumpled at one's side. In houses where there are not fresh napkins for every meal the napkin should be neatly folded and placed in the napkin ring, if one is furnished, or tied with a ribbon, if one is provided. It is, of course, much more elegant to serve fresh napkins at every meal, for there are unmentionable microbes hidden in the folds of every soiled one, so the proper Japanese napkins commend themselves to housekeepers, especially for summer use. This year they are being made doubly as large as formerly, and the paper in them is so firm and yet so soft that they are almost as agreeable to handle as linen ones, and then there is no washing, no laundry bills.

My military lady asks me to be quite as frank and specific as I would be with a Hotentot who had never sat at a civilized table, so I venture to mention things which, if he had not given me this license, I would never dare do. The first course at a dinner is generally a clam or oyster cocktail, a caviare sandwich, or grapefruit. The first are eaten with an oyster fork from a long glass, the sauce in which they are served being left in the glass. Caviare sandwiches can be taken from the hand if one prefers this method, and the grape fruit, which are already cut, sweetened, and arranged for serving, are eaten with a dessert spoon. Alligator pears are also sometimes served as a first course. These are cut in half, the large stone removed from the center, and the space it leaves filled with a French salad dressing. The pulp is eaten with a fork or spoon.

Soup is eaten from the side of a large teaspoon, or drunk, rather, from a spoon. Soups are sometimes served with soup, but this is extremely bad form. Fish should be eaten with a fork. The bones can be removed with the help of a "pusher," as the piece of bread is sometimes called, but this is not the proper method. An infant terrible once yelled out at a meal where guests were present, "Oh, mamma, Ethel ate her pusher!" Whereupon Ethel replied, "Yes, I ate my pusher 'cause it was full of gravy." And nobody blamed her.

The fork should be held in the right hand, and the knife should remain on the side of the plate except when in actual use. Never saw the air with your knife when you are eating with your fork. It is needless to say that the knife is never used to convey food to the mouth, but, strange as it may seem, at the table d'hotes in Germany one often sees the knife used for this purpose by seemingly well-bred people. A German officer once said to The Arbitrator: "You Americans never seem to use your knives to eat with, but how in the world do you manage about peas?" He is true, "the p," that some Americans eat peas with a spoon, which is perfectly acceptable.

The hostess is served first at dinner for several reasons. In medieval times, when poisoning one's enemies was a pastime of society, the host or hostess invariably tasted first every dish that was offered, to assure the guests that it contained no poison. Nowadays, when so many queer dishes are offered, the hostess, by being served first, shows the way in which they should be manipulated. Then, too, the guests are supposed to wait until the hostess gives the signal before beginning to eat, and there is often a long interval from the time the service begins until the hostess is reached, which is done away with when she is the first to be served.

Formerly there were many sorts of wines served at a formal dinner. I have seen as many as nine glasses ranged at the covers for the various brands and varieties. At present only two or three wines are served, sometimes only one. If you do not wish wine, you should not allow it to be poured. The simplest way to indicate your wish in the matter is to turn your glass upside down. It is extremely bad form to have every glass at your place filled and to leave them untouched.

A correspondent asks if one is compelled to eat of every dish that is offered at a long dinner. Certainly not. If you do not care for a dish simply shake your head when it is passed to you. The menu of the dinners of today, however, is so short and so simple that one rarely declines any dish. Years ago a twenty-course dinner was not regarded as extraordinary, and the guests sat at table from seven to eleven; now a dinner that takes more than an hour or an hour and a half to serve is regarded as bad form.

Cheese is eaten with a fork in this country, not with a knife, as is customary on the continent. As in England, and cheese and crackers are generally served with the salad, but some people still prefer the old-fashioned way of serving it with the coffee when that beverage is offered while the guests are still at table. This is rare, however, as the coffee

is nearly always carried to the drawing-room, where the men join the women as soon as they have finished their cigars. The old fashion of passing a silver bowl of perfumed water into which every one dips his or her napkin in turn is obsolete, and has been replaced by the more sensible finger bowls, but bear in mind that you are not expected to take a bath in these, only the tips of the fingers should be immersed in the water and then dried on the napkin. Some people seriously object to finger bowls, maintaining that their use savors too much of making one's toilet at table, and that one's table manners should be so exquisite that they should not be necessary.

Except at public dinners, no one offers a toast nowadays, but no one can refuse when asked to drink with another. The intelligent person, however, never asks a person to drink when he knows he does not take wine. The constant drinking of toasts became such an onerous burden, and such an expense to the officers in Germany that the Emperor finally allowed those that were total abstainers, a class that is constantly growing larger in that kingdom, to drink toasts in water. It is, however, not necessary to take a great gulp of wine or water when responding to a toast, merely bow to the person so honoring you and touch your mouth to your glass. One is not expected to drink one's own health, only to bow in acknowledgment.

A callow youth writes to ask if it is allowable to eat a dinner at home before going out to dine. Why? When you are asked to dine, you are asked to eat food that has been provided for you at both expense and trouble, and to dine beforehand or to affect not to have an appetite is a reflection on your hostess. One should never be greedy, but to have a hearty appetite and to enjoy your food is a compliment to the person who has provided it for you. It is also perfectly permissible to comment on the excellence of a dish, and when the hostess herself dresses the salad the approbation of her guests is very grateful to her.

The hostess arranges how her guests shall sit at dinner and in what order they shall go to the table. At large, formal dinners the names of each couple are written upon card and included in envelopes addressed to the several men attending the dinner, which are handed to them upon entering the house or in the dressing room. If a man finds that he has been allotted to a woman whom he does not know, he at once asks his host or hostess to present him. Great care should be taken in arranging the guests to see that congenial people get together, and people who are on good terms. At the smart dinner here last winter a man was asked to take out a woman who had jilted him the year before and had then married his rival, and at another dinner a divorced woman who had resented her maiden name was delivered over to her former husband. Happily in this case both the man and the woman appreciated the humor of the situation and played their parts to the end, while those who knew them looked on and wondered if they would not be tempted to make it up. It is not necessary to give your undivided attention to your partner, but only to see that she is entertained. The man or the woman of the other side often proves more interesting than one's partner.

It is the French custom to serve sweetened water after dinner and in some houses here where foreign manners prevail it is done, but liqueurs with the coffee and apollinaris later in the evening is the general fashion in America. In Germany at the most formal dinners mineral waters and beer are invariably served toward the end of the evening. Do not be tempted to stay too long after a dinner. A half hour is long enough to linger, and the unusual entertainment is provided an hour should be the limit.

The Arbitrator has recently received a large number of letters asking for a reply by mail. It is quite outside the province of this department to answer queries by mail, and while The Arbitrator will be glad to answer all questions he receives in the columns of the paper, it is impossible for him to do so through the mails.

ANSWERS TO SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Will you kindly give me a modest menu for a June breakfast to be given at the Chevy Chase Club?
BACHELOR.
Cucumber Soft-shell Crabs Sauce Tartare Fried Hamlet Boiled Spinach Green Peas Strawberry Shortcake with Whipped Cream
2. Can a resident of Washington who is not a member of the Chevy Chase Club take a June breakfast?
OUTSIDER.
Answer—No; see the by-laws of the club.
3. How should one address a rear admiral? Should one say Rear Admiral Smith or simply Admiral Smith?
GREENHORN.
Answer—Simply Admiral Smith.
4. Can you tell me what would be a pretty and economical dress for a June bride?
Answer—This is not a fashion column, and The Arbitrator does not pretend to know anything about clothes, but on a venture I would say that any of the thin, sheer materials that are worn now built over silk would be pretty and appropriate. There is a material of which a little girl in whom I am much interested has a frock, called washable chiffon. It looks very much like the old-fashioned muslin, but is softer. Nothing to my mind could be more charming for a bridal costume.
5. I appreciated so much your advice to shop girls, which you published last winter, that I am

going to ask you what to do with the four weeks' vacation that I shall have this summer. I have a little money saved up and could go away, but I don't know where to go and I have no one to go with. Perhaps I ought to tell you that I am not very strong and that both my father and my mother died of consumption. Thank you, sir, for any advice you may give.

Answer—Go away by all means. There is nothing like a change to strengthen one's body and uplift one's soul. I would advise you to go to some sea-side resort. Atlantic City is near and convenient, and in its vicinity there are many small and cheap places where the ocean is just as fine, the air just as health-giving as in that great resort itself. While you are away live as much out of doors as possible and drink in great deep breaths of ozone, that it may strengthen your lungs, so that there will be no danger of the dread tuberculosis. Go, and let your holiday be a real play day; get just as much out of it as you can, and when you come back you will take up your work with joy.

I received a note the other day from the wife of a Western Senator, who signed herself Mrs. So-and-So. Is this ever allowable?

Answer—It is very bad form, and it seems hardly possible that the wife of a Senator should not be better informed. In writing to servants or tradespeople, some women sign their names after this fashion, but when the title is used it is better to write in the third person.

After what character in history would you advise a young man to model himself? READER.
Answer—Your question is a difficult one to answer. Instead of selecting one hero as a model, I would take the virtues and talents of several. Frederick the Great

Banner Song of the Ben-Hur Filsofers.

I.
We are boys who sing in chorus,
With our banner streaming o'er us,
Songs our fathers sang before us—
Songs of Liberty.
We rehearse our country's story;
We extol its matchless glory—
Won thro' clash and conflict gory—
Freedom's heirs are we.

CHORUS.
Hurrah for our banner, boys—the red, white, and blue;
Sing the song our fathers sang, you—and you—and you;
Yankee Doodle, keep it up; Yankee Doodle, doo;
Yankee Doodle, once again; Yankee Doodle, doo!

II.
We will strive to hold foundations
Laid in former generations—
An example to the nations
Now, and yet to be;
So the songs that we are singing
Ever, ever will be ringing;
Far and wide their echoes ringing
Strains of Liberty.

(Chorus.)
With devotion true and tender,
Homage to our flag we render,
Shining in its starry splendor—
All its charms unrolled;
Waving from its lofty station
To the people's salutation—
To the wronged and every nation
Welcome to its fold!

(Chorus.)
HARRIET N. RALSTON,
Hyattsville, Md.

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for sagacity, Napoleon for courage and audacity, Machiavelli for keenness, and Victoria for benevolence. The one man in history I had rather be like is Frederick, but his character was spoiled by many small and mean vices.

NEW CATHEDRAL PLANNED.

Methodist Episcopal Church South Will Build Here.
Work is about to begin on the raising of a fund of \$200,000 for the erection of a great Methodist cathedral in Washington. Rev. George S. Sexton, of Houston, Tex., has been appointed assistant secretary of the board of church extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and will be in charge of the enterprise until now. Dr. Sexton will arrive in Washington in about two weeks to take part in a conference with the local committee of Mount Vernon church.

Tobler Replies to Lauterbach.
In reply to George Lauterbach, Emil Tobler, of the Gospel Army, asserts that Lauterbach's statement is untrue. Tobler, in his capacity as an officer of the Gospel Army, says he has taken action in the courts to have George Lauterbach removed from office, alleging he is unfit to be at the head of a religious movement. "Testimony will be presented at the court hearing on June 2. In the meantime Mr. Tobler says he will continue to perform his work, trusting he will be vindicated in court."

BUFFALO BILL HERE

Big Wild West Arrives with Indians and Cowboys.

MANY NEW FEATURES SHOWN

Hundreds of Horses, Elephants, Camels, and Other Animals, Augmented by a Splendid Aggregation of Red Men, Expert Shooters, and Ancient Stage Coaches.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show arrives in Washington early this morning on special trains, loaded with Indians, cowboys, sharpshooters, and peanuts and lemonade for the little folks.

When Col. W. F. Cody and Maj. Gordon W. Lillie, after many years of success in presenting exhibitions of human life and character, decide to unite their forces, it must be acknowledged that they have taken a step in advance in amusement enterprise.

The combined "Wild West" and "Great Far East" will give Washingtonians an opportunity to see in the same arena types of tribes and families from around the world.

Nations Are Searched.

North and South America, India, Asia, Africa, Australia, Japan, Europe, and the islands of the Indian Ocean have been searched for specimens of human

character in their costumes and customs. All of these are shown in a series of acts and scenes, which tell their own story and teach a lesson in geography and anthropology study obtainable in no other way or manner.

Hundreds of horses, with musically trained elephants, camels, and other animals, will appear; daring riders of many nations and climes; athletic feats of all nations are included in this extraordinary combination, and it must be seen to be appreciated.

With Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East will be seen representative horsemen from the equestrian nations of the world, and to see all of them in their native land one would be compelled to visit a dozen nations of the earth. Assembled, therefore, in one entertainment, their various methods in the saddle provides an object lesson which one may well be glad to take advantage of. Contrasted in one entertainment will be the reckless daring of the Russian Cossack, the stately grace of the Royal English Lancer, the careless ease of the American cowboy, and the native abandon of the Indian in riding their fast-moving horses.

The Saddle Methods.
Saddle methods of Bedouin Arabs, the South American Guachos, Mexican Vaqueros, German Calatrassers, and the Japanese, will be illustrated by genuine representatives of those classes and nationalities. It would require months of travel to witness these native horsemen, but this exhibition brings them to America and presents them in interesting display, and offers them to public view in a single entertainment. In these automobile days it is thus interesting to note

how thoroughly and prominently the horse plays his part in the various nations of the earth.

In the Wild West and Far East entertainment the horse is not alone shown as a burden-bearer, he performs various feats of address in high school displays, engages in a quadrille, jumps over a table where diners are partaking of a meal, and does many other feats which show how much he is to be admired as one of the noblest of animals. In the stirring battle scenes he is a most important factor, showing in mimic warfare how essential he was to the success of our army in subduing the barbaric redman and opening his domain to the uses of civilization.

There will be no street parade, as every attention will be concentrated to the giving of perfect performances. The show will be given at Fifteenth and H streets northeast, beginning to-morrow and closing Tuesday night. Two performances will be given both days, afternoon and night.

ABOUT WELL-KNOWN WASHINGTONIANS

Mrs. John R. McLean, who has for a good many years been good angel to the embryo officers at Annapolis, will hereafter be privileged to drink her punch from a gorgeous bowl of massive silver, beautifully embellished with handwork, the trophy coming as a token of appreciation from the midshipmen. One day last week Mrs. McLean received the young navy men, who were represented by a committee, and after a beautifully spread luncheon at Friendship, the bowl was duly presented, the informality and general good time enjoyed by the visiting midshipmen, as well as the forty or more young matrons and girls asked to meet them, being not the least memorable feature of the occasion.

The punch bowl, which will serve as a memento of Mrs. McLean's many courtesies to the midshipmen, is a large affair, which stands upon a pedestal marked with some handsome carving. Two huge anchor-shaped handles add to the beauty of the bowl, upon the side of which, under the crest of the United States Military Academy, runs the legend: "Presented to Mrs. John R. McLean by the Brigade of Midshipmen, March Fourth, Nineteen Hundred and Nine."

The birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. "Joe" Lett will add supremely to the satisfaction of Mrs. Lett, who has always evidenced great interest in her only son's choice of a wife. Mrs. Lett, since the inception of the attachment between Joe Lett, "confirmed bachelor," and the dashing debutante, Juliette Williams, has helped things along with all the good will and amiability possible. The latest addition to Mrs. Lett's little group of grandchildren is the only boy in the circle, and doubtless the fact will make him not the less a grateful arrival. The Countess of St. John, formerly Margaret Lett, and Mrs. Colin Campbell (Nancy Lett), both have darling little daughters. Meanwhile, the children of beautiful Mary Lett, the queenliest and most lovable of Mrs. Lett's unusually beautiful and brilliant group of daughters, are lively, enterprising little women who show a strong strain of good old American independence, both in thought and action. The elder especially is remarkable for her skill as an equestrian. Lord Curzon and his little family lived the greater part of the year at Hackwood Park, a famous old estate in Hampshire, which the former viceroy purchased several years ago from Lord Bolton.

Extensive alterations and improvements have supplemented the natural beauties of the homestead, which has among its many attractions a French garden where in is a marble-paved room, once the favorite music hall of the late Lavinia Fenton who was the original Polly in the "Beggar's Opera." Lavinia stepped from the stage to become the mistress of Bolton. Still another feature of the place is "Springwoods," a great stretch of ground covered with tall beeches fringed with a luxuriant growth of English ivy. Flanking Springwoods is the amphitheater where all fresco entertainments were given in the good old days, the seating space extending backward from a stage of white turf, and flanked by magnificent elms. A pair of marble pillars, presented by the Duke of Tuscany to Charles II for the Stuart King's palace at Winchester, have a place in the furnishings, and fine old carvings by Gibbons distinguish the east and west wing hall. Before the mansion stands the equestrian statue of George I, presented by that monarch to the then reigning Duke of Bolton when the English King was Elector of Hanover.

When hawking was the pastime of the kings and nobles, Hackwood, with its famous banquetting hall, was a sporting lodge attached to Basing House, the residence of the Marquis of Winchester, who professed to be a sportsman, and was endured in the interests of the royal Stewart. Basing House came to its destruction at the hands of Cromwell, whose troopers, according to a legend of the day, were infuriated at the phrase "Aymen Loyaulte" (loyalty), which the gallant householder had scrawled upon the pane of every window in the house. Hackwood, walled in by leafy elms and overgrown with creeping ivy, which is a disconcerting feature of all old-time English places, has all the remains of the old days of strife save the legend Aymen Loyaulte, since the motto of the famous Paullet family.

Two well-known women of Washington society who display a fond for hats are Mrs. Clarence Edwards, the gentle, high-bred looking wife of the President's good friend, Gen. Edwards, and Mrs. George Howard. Mrs. Edwards, who has a very little head which she carries beautifully, wears all sorts of rather big hats massed with feathers. Red and green and crimson and blue, plain white, or inky black, no woman in Washington has a greater collection of gowns in her wardrobe than Mrs. Edwards wears her hats beautifully, and she has a store of them by her—hats for every conceivable occasion, and always the headgear is marked by the last note of the modish and the tasteful.

Mrs. Howard's fancy in headwear has a wide range. Anything that is stylish and becoming strikes her fancy. She has round hats and square hats, big hats and little hats; hats trimmed with quills, hats bordered with blossoms, hats with ribbons, and once in a while, a stunning bill that appears trimmed in the simplest sort of a way with a French bow. Mrs. Howard's well-carried head is one of her chief beauties, and she makes the most of her vantage point, studying constantly to the coiffure and to the bonneting.

In Mrs. Henry Kirke Porter, wife of the former Representative from Pennsylvania, Washington society has an interesting resident whose grace of bearing equals her attainments. Mrs. Porter is the typical grande dame of the good old days when noblesse oblige was a phrase used to express the acme of distinction. Well poised, eagerly interested in life, a lover of "people," Mrs. Porter has a disposition singularly well equipped to bring to her the best life has to offer. The mistress of a home provided with ample means, she displays a well-seasoned discrimination in her manner of dispensing even the slightest hospitality.



A WAR-TIME MIRAGE.

(Written for The Washington Herald.)
By ALLIE SHARPE BALCH,
May 25, 1909.

Can't you hear the beating of the big and boisterous drums,
A mirage of war-time, out of which our soldier comes?
It is only a dream, that rises from the past,
And o'er the dust of the dead tears fall thick and fast.

Can't you see them standing guard, in storm and under stars—
The gallant boys who gloried in their wounds and scars?
Can't you see them pierced with ball, torn with shot and shell;
Can't you see them fighting, full of courage born of hell?

Can't you see them in the struggle for the nation's life?
Can't you hear the yells and shouts as they dash into the strife,
Down the fields of glory, for the right to do or die;
Can't you hear the cheering as the flag floats proudly by?

Can't you hear the tramp, tramp, through the fields of battles red,
And the gallop of the cavalry o'er the wounded and the dead?
Only a mirage of war-time coming out of years,
To-day we bring the flowers watered with our tears.

Only a mirage of war-time, ended is all strife;
Blue and gray at rest who fought it life for life.
Our boys of '61, no time can make them old,
"Yank" and "Johnny Reb" together, safe in Heaven's fold.

The soldiers true, the gallant boys who wore the color blue,
To-day we bring our laurel wreaths to give you honor due;
All honor, too, we give to the regal dust of gray;
Lee's soul is hovering close to his own dear boys to-day.

Over the hills of peace blended colors gray and blue,
And God's soldiers are at rest, hearts so brave and true;
Under the flag "Old Glory," where violets kiss the sod,
Bring the sacrament of flowers for our "boys" gone home to God.



attached. As patron of the Shinnecock River, Arthur Stillwell, Clarence King, Raymond King, Paul Donaldson, Andrew McCallum, George Gliddens, and Willis Cameron; second treasurers, Masters Edward Roach and Daniel McCallum; tenors, Messrs. Charles S. Alden, Joseph Jecko, William Hall, and Edward L. Frawley; basses, Messrs. Joseph Dunn, Thomas B. Huxey, Joseph A. Fenwick, John M. Connel, William M. Lynch, J. I. Schulte, Francis At Lee, Joseph Ryder, David W. Carroll, and John T. Fogarty.

DEATH RATE DECREASED.

Americans Are Successful in War Against Disease at Panama.
Progress of five years in health and sanitation work in the Canal Zone is recounted in the report just issued by the Isthmian Canal Commission. The public health work has included three branches peculiar to the tropics: The eradication of yellow fever, decreasing of malaria, and the keeping the isthmus free from bubonic plague, cholera, and smallpox. An incessant warfare has been waged on the mosquito, which carried the germs of yellow fever and malaria. Only two cases of bubonic plague have developed on the isthmus since American occupation. The death rate has decreased from 41.2 in 1906 to 12.01 in 1908.

SANE FOURTH ASSURED.

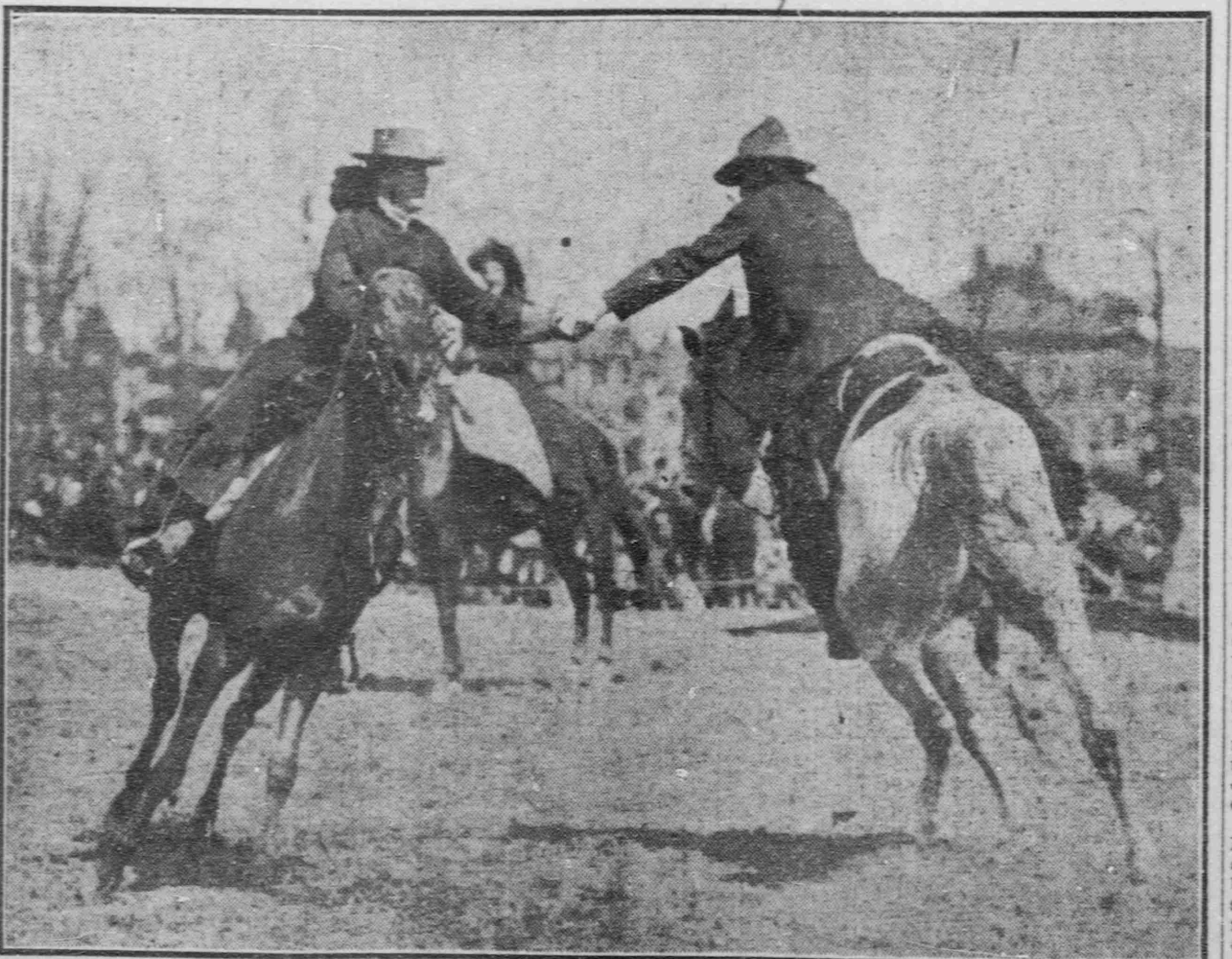
Oratory to Take Place of Loud Crackers and Guns.

Washington is to have a "safe and sane" Fourth of July. Oratory is to take the place of other loud noises. Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel has accepted the invitation of the citizens' committee to be the orator of the day. Secretary of War Dickinson will read the Declaration of Independence at the celebration, for which Washingtonians have contributed nearly \$1,000 in the last few days. Secretary Nagel, in stating his acceptance of the invitation, heartily endorsed the movement for a "safe and sane" Fourth. He said he hoped the rest of the country would fall in line.

Requests to Daughters.

The entire estate of Mrs. Johanna A. Gorman, including the premises at 45 Massachusetts avenue northwest, is devised to Margaret A. Gorman in trust for her three daughters, Margaret A. Teresa L., and Josie A. Gorman. The premises are to be and staid as a home for the daughter or daughters remaining unmarried. The will, dated July 25, 1908, was filed for probate yesterday.

WITH BUFFALO BILL'S PERFORMERS.



Cowboys and ranch girls in a dance on horseback.